

MARVEL®
25TH
ANNIVERSARY



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210
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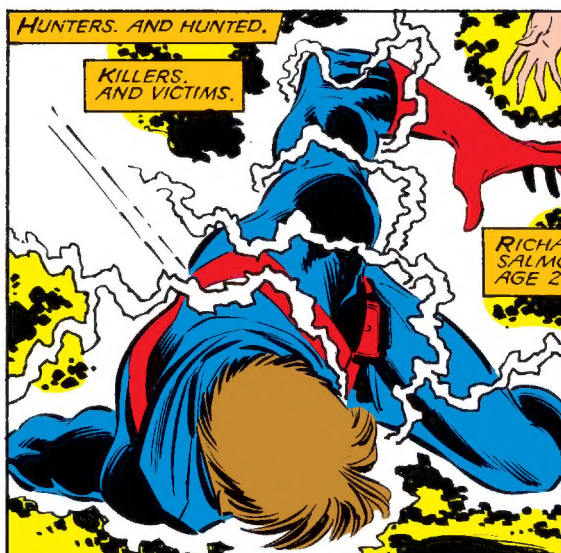
THE UNCANNY

X-MEN®

**C'MON, MESS
WITH US--MAKE
OUR DAY!!**



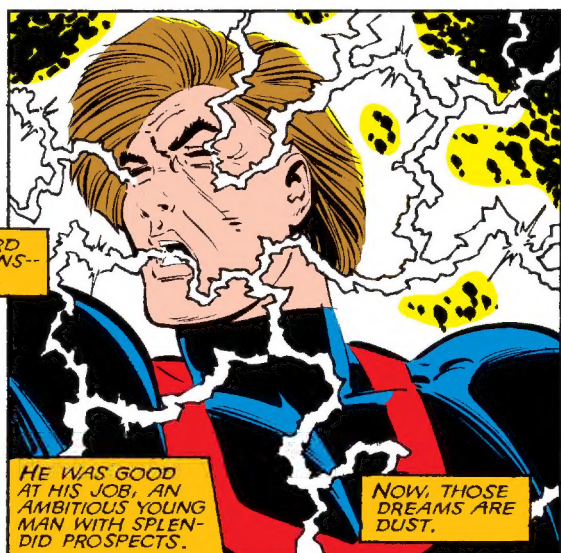




HUNTERS. AND HUNTED.

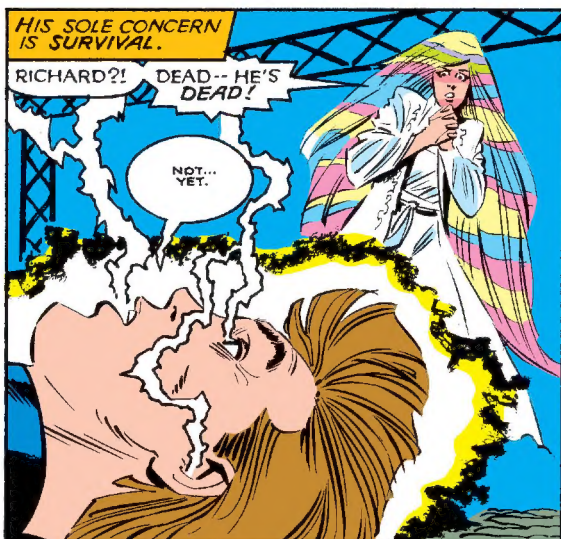
KILLERS.
AND VICTIMS.

RICHARD
SALMONS--
AGE 27.



HE WAS GOOD
AT HIS JOB, AN
AMBITIOUS YOUNG
MAN WITH SPLEN-
DID PROSPECTS.

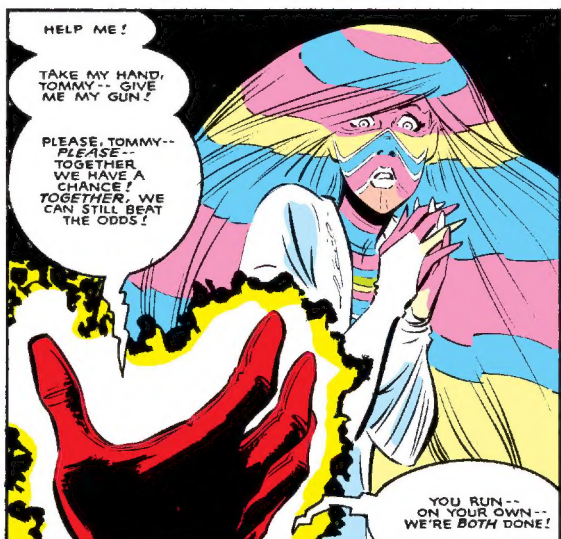
NOW, THOSE
DREAMS ARE
DUST.



HIS SOLE CONCERN
IS SURVIVAL.

RICHARD?! DEAD-- HE'S
DEAD!

NOT...
YET.



HELP ME!

TAKE MY HAND,
TOMMY-- GIVE
ME MY GUN!

PLEASE, TOMMY--
PLEASE--
TOGETHER
WE HAVE A
CHANCE!
TOGETHER, WE
CAN STILL BEAT
THE ODDS!

YOU RUN--
ON YOUR OWN--
WE'RE BOTH DONE!



RICHARD--

FOR THE
LOVE OF
HEAVEN,
GIRL--

I--

-- PLEASE!

-- I--
CAN'T!



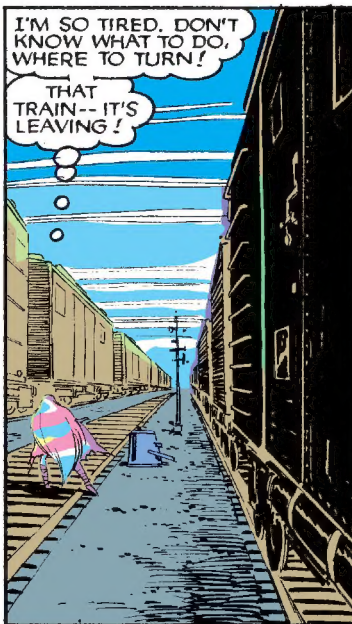
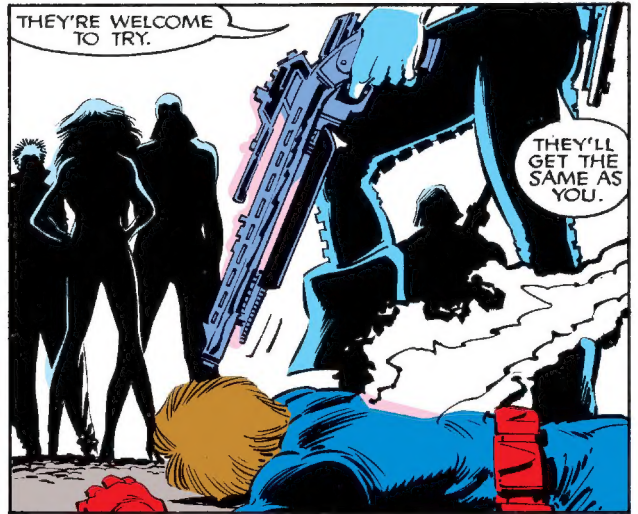
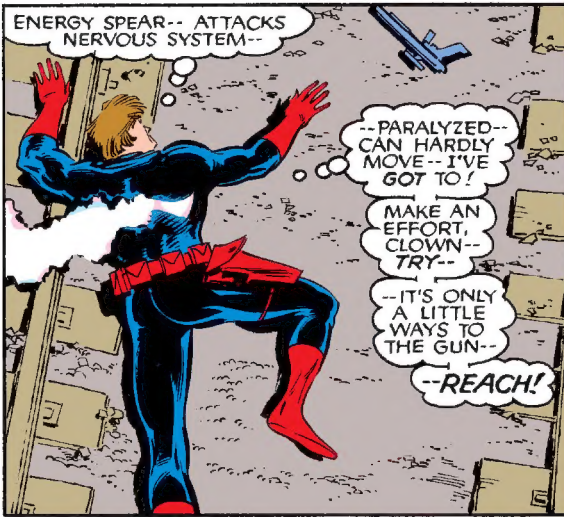
I'M SO FAR FROM HOME. I DON'T KNOW THIS
CITY. NO TUNNELS-- LIKE UNDER MANHATTAN--
NOWHERE TO HIDE.

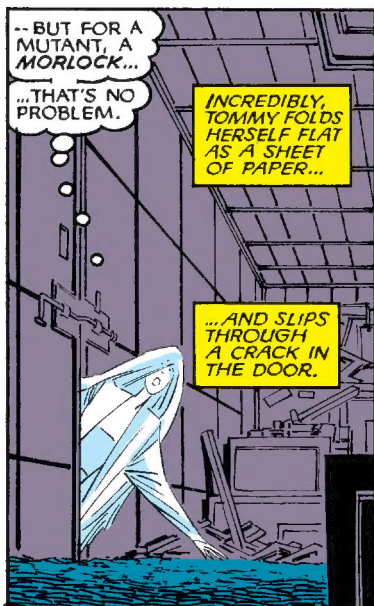
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE
SUCH A GREAT ADVENTURE...

...WANDERING ACROSS
THE WHOLE COUNTRY.

WHO'S AFTER
ME?! WHY DO
THEY WANT TO
KILL ME?!!

I DON'T
WANT
TO DIE!



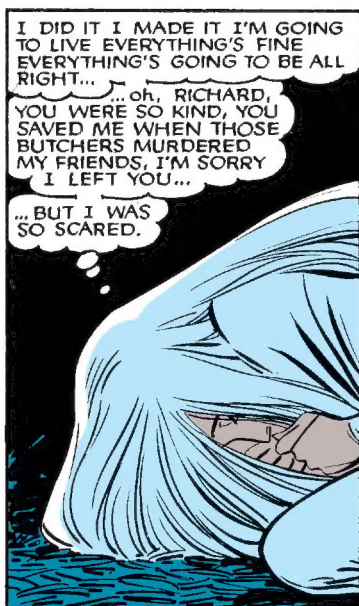


--BUT FOR A
MUTANT, A
MORLOCK...

...THAT'S NO
PROBLEM.

INCREDIBLY,
TOMMY FOLDS
HERSELF FLAT
AS A SHEET
OF PAPER...

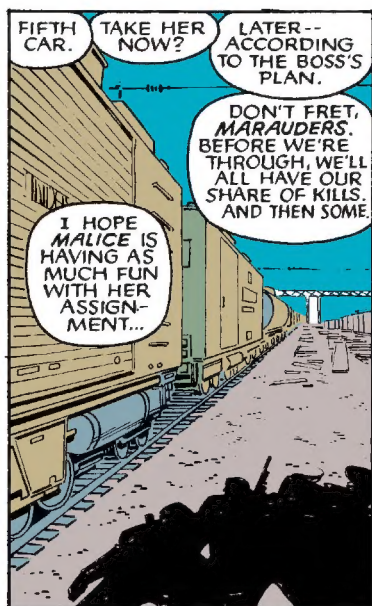
...AND SLIPS
THROUGH
A CRACK IN
THE DOOR.



I DID IT I MADE IT I'M GOING
TO LIVE EVERYTHING'S FINE
EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE ALL
RIGHT...

...oh, RICHARD,
YOU WERE SO KIND, YOU
SAVED ME WHEN THOSE
BUTCHERS MURDERED
MY FRIENDS, I'M SORRY
I LEFT YOU...

...BUT I WAS
SO SCARED.



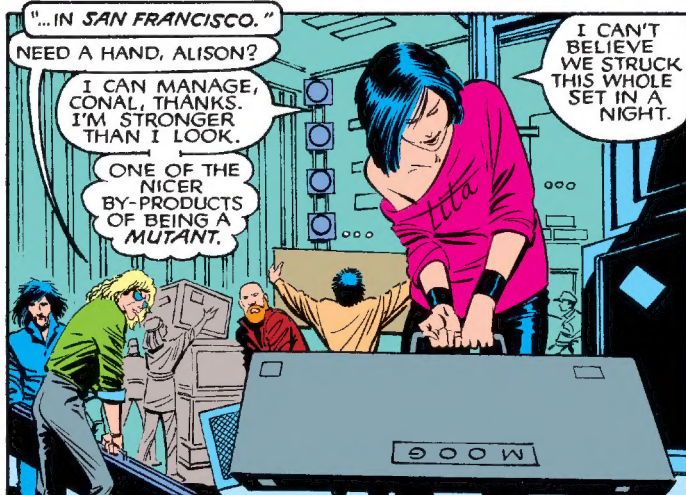
FIFTH
CAR.

TAKE HER
NOW?

LATER--
ACCORDING
TO THE BOSS'S
PLAN.

DON'T FRET,
MARAUDERS.
BEFORE WE'RE
THROUGH, WE'LL
ALL HAVE OUR
SHARE OF KILLS.
AND THEN SOME.

I HOPE
MALICE IS
HAVING AS
MUCH FUN
WITH HER
ASSIGN-
MENT...



"...IN SAN FRANCISCO."
NEED A HAND, ALISON?

I CAN MANAGE,
CONAL, THANKS.
I'M STRONGER
THAN I LOOK.

ONE OF THE
NICER
BY-PRODUCTS
OF BEING A
MUTANT.

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
WE STRUCK
THIS WHOLE
SET IN A
NIGHT.



YOU'LL GET
USED TO IT,
LUV. WORK'S
PRETTY MUCH
DONE...

...TIME
FOR THE
BAND TO
PARTY!

I'LL
PASS.



THE BAND THAT PLAYS TOGETHER
PLAYS TOGETHER, IF YOU GET MY
MEANIN'?

I DO. SOME OTHER
TIME.

YOU'RE NOT A SOLO
ACT ANYMORE, ALISON,
YOU'RE PART OF A
GROUP.

YOU CAN'T
KEEP ACTING LIKE
AN OUTSIDER.



I'M BUSHED, CONAL! I
JUST WANT TO BE LEFT
ALONE, TO CRASH ON
THE BAND BUS-- IS THAT
A CRIME?!

TAKE
A HINT,
GUYS--



--LATER,
OKAY?



I SHOULDN'T HAVE YELLED. THEY MEANT WELL, AND THEY'RE RIGHT.

I'VE NO BUSINESS PLAYING THE PRIMA DONNA. LILA CHENEY'S THE STAR, NOT ME.

I SING AS WELL. I LOOK AS GOOD.

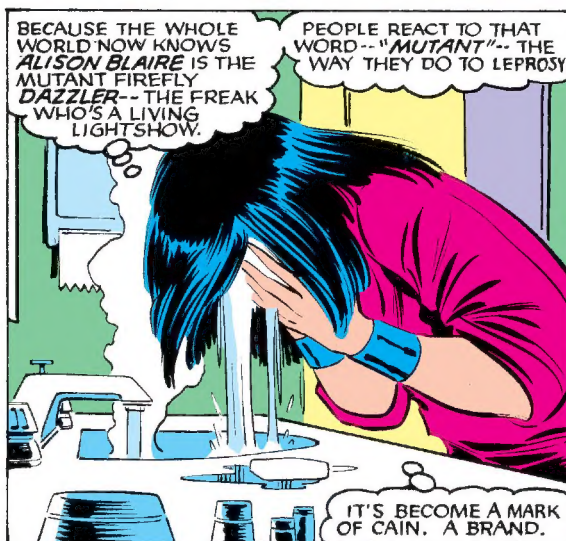
I JUST DIDN'T GET THE BREAKS.



ACTUALLY, I LOOK AWFUL.

Sigh!

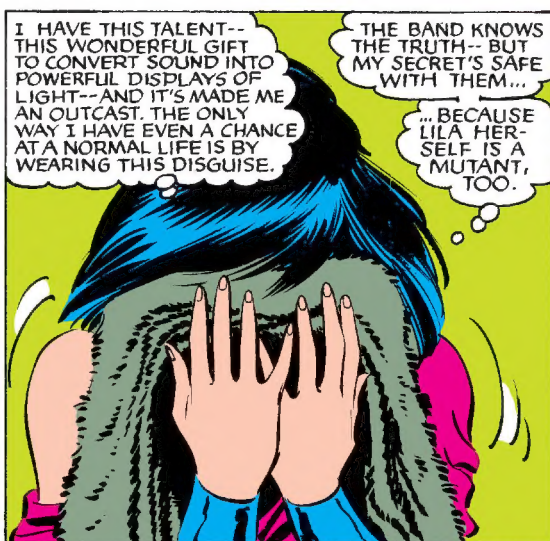
I REALLY MISS BEING A BLONDE. I'M LIVING A LIE-- AND I HATE IT!



BECAUSE THE WHOLE WORLD NOW KNOWS ALISON BLAIRE IS THE MUTANT FIREFLY DAZZLER-- THE FREAK WHO'S A LIVING LIGHTSHOW.

PEOPLE REACT TO THAT WORD-- "MUTANT"-- THE WAY THEY DO TO LEPROSY.

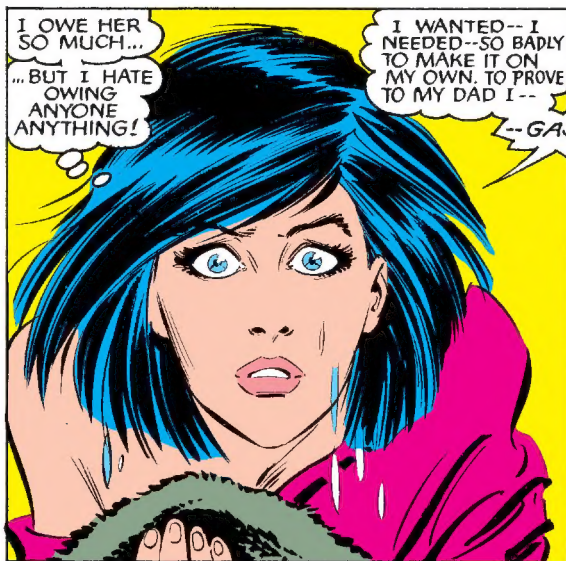
IT'S BECOME A MARK OF CAIN. A BRAND.



I HAVE THIS TALENT-- THIS WONDERFUL GIFT TO CONVERT SOUND INTO POWERFUL DISPLAYS OF LIGHT-- AND IT'S MADE ME AN OUTCAST. THE ONLY WAY I HAVE EVEN A CHANCE AT A NORMAL LIFE IS BY WEARING THIS DISGUISE.

THE BAND KNOWS THE TRUTH-- BUT MY SECRET'S SAFE WITH THEM...

...BECAUSE LILA HERSELF IS A MUTANT, TOO.

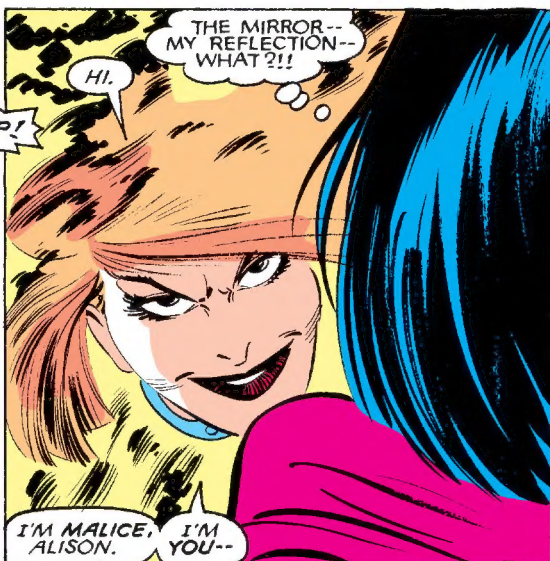


I OWE HER SO MUCH...

...BUT I HATE OWING ANYONE ANYTHING!

I WANTED-- I NEEDED-- SO BADLY TO MAKE IT ON MY OWN. TO PROVE TO MY DAD I--

--GASP!

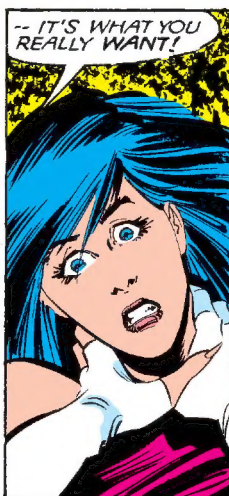
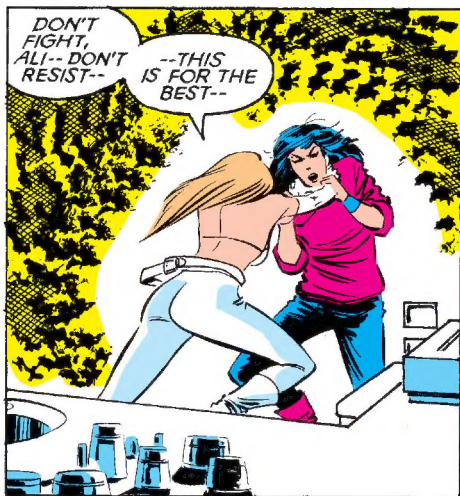
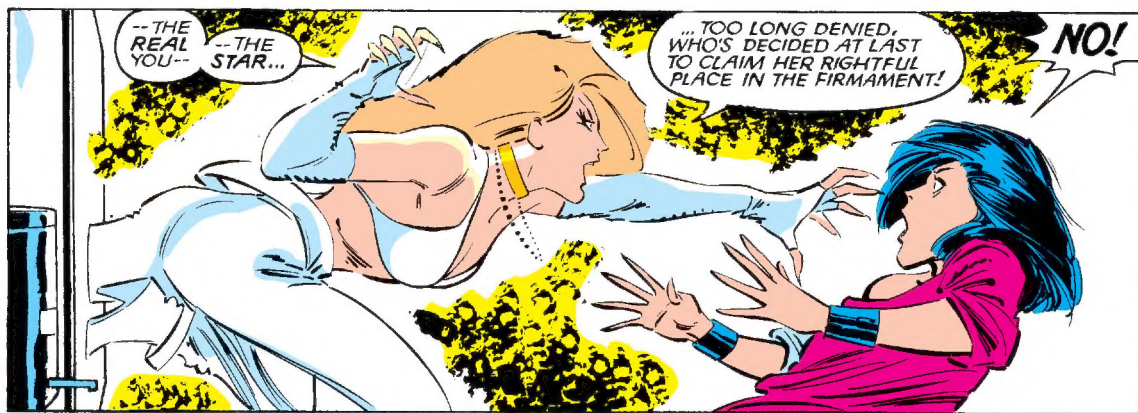


HI.

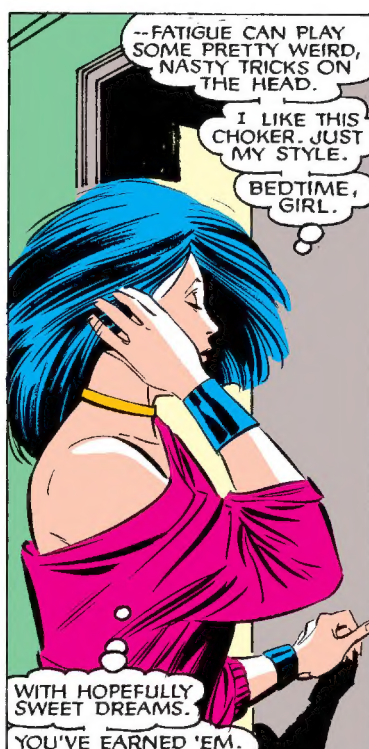
THE MIRROR-- MY REFLECTION-- WHAT?!!

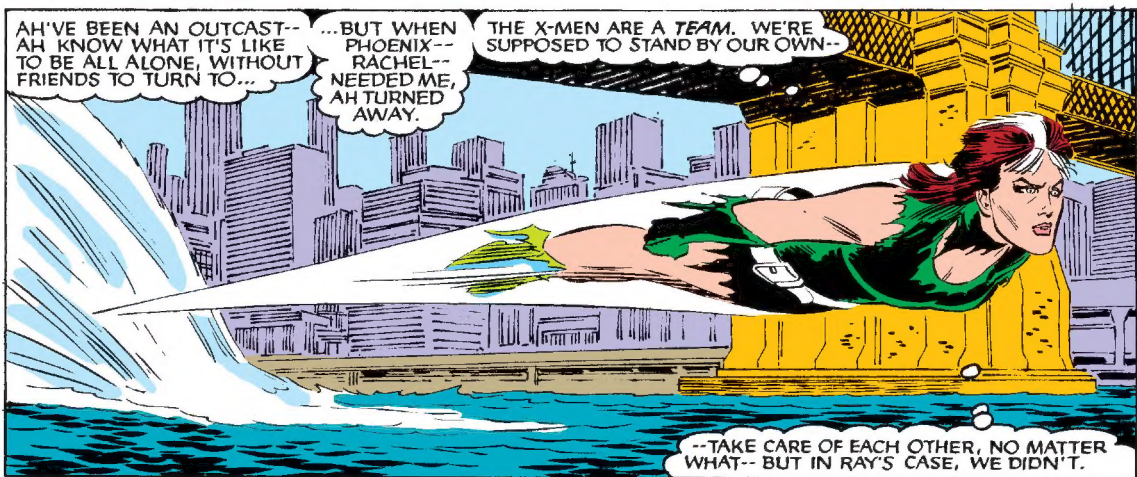
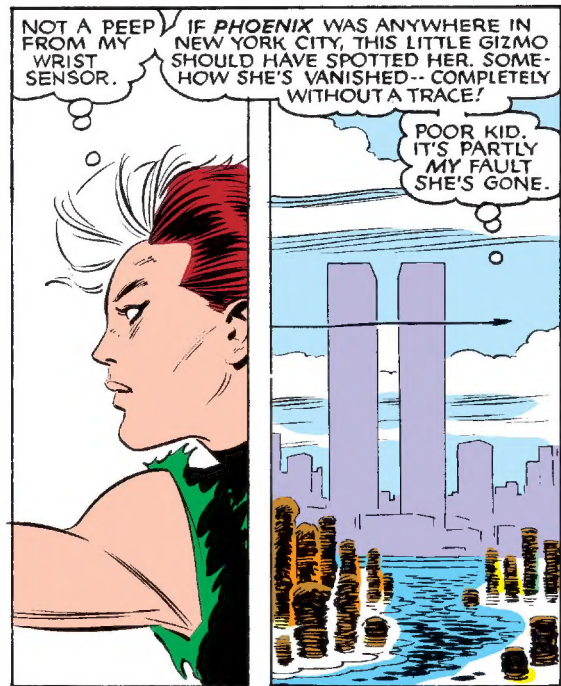
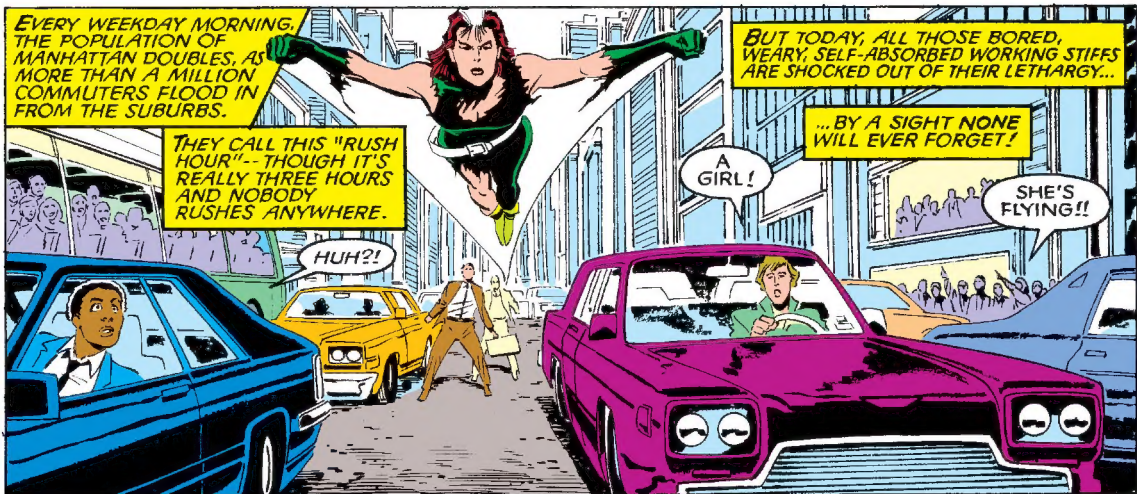
I'M MALICE, ALISON.

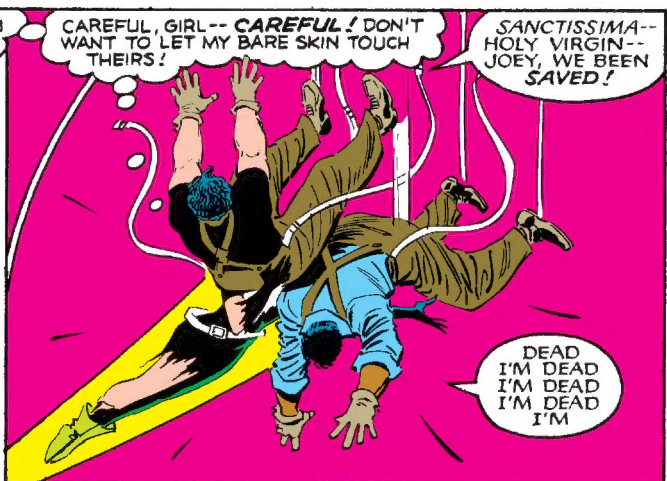
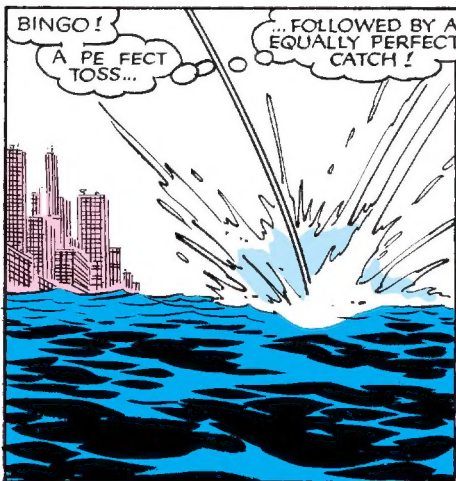
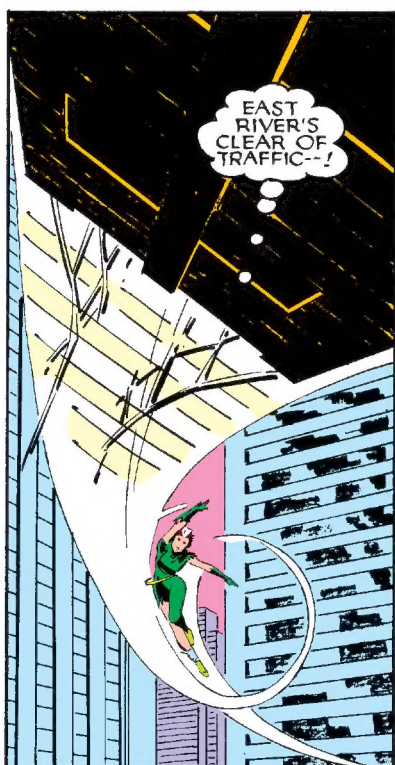
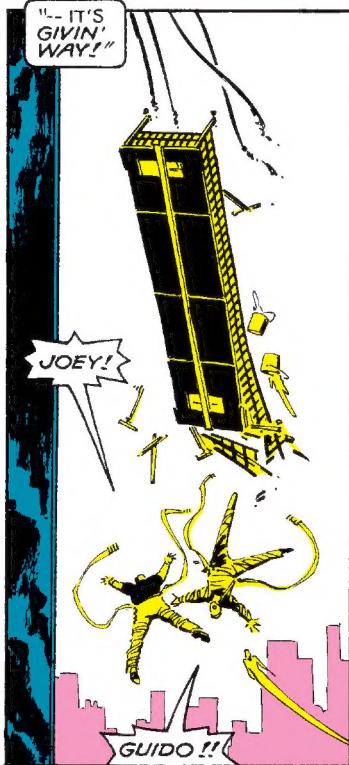
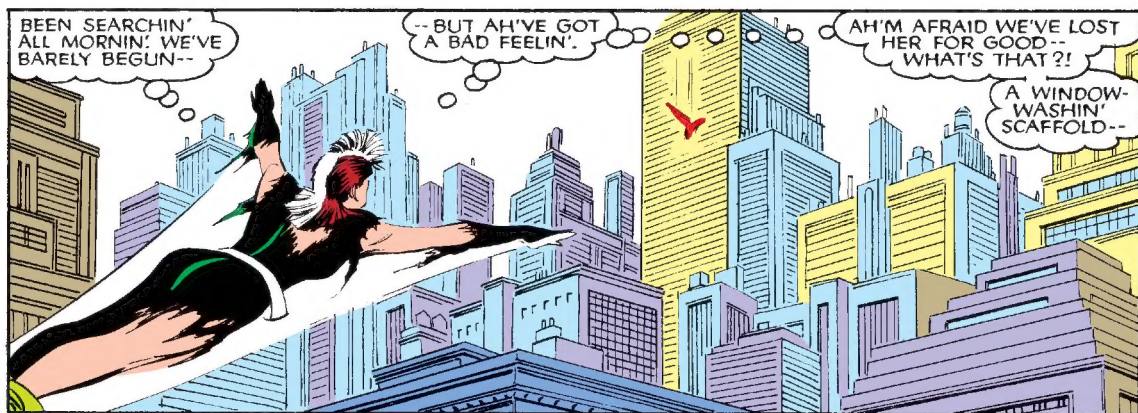
I'M YOU--

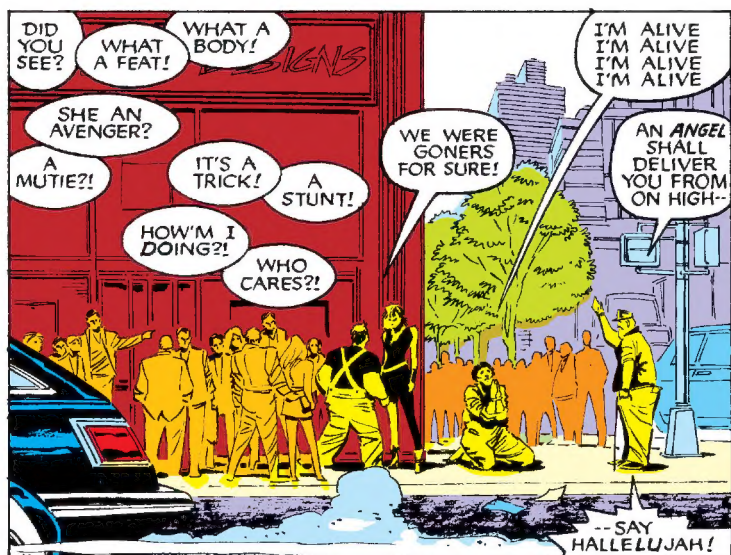


GET AWAY!









DID YOU SEE?
WHAT A FEAT!
WHAT A BODY!
SHE AN AVENGER?
A MUTIE?!

IT'S A TRICK!
A STUNT!
HOW'M I DOING?!

WE WERE GONERS FOR SURE!

I'M ALIVE
I'M ALIVE
I'M ALIVE

AN ANGEL
SHALL
DELIVER
YOU FROM
ON HIGH--

-- SAY HALLELUJAH!



NO NEED FOR THANKS. AH WAS GLAD TO HELP.

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK FOR THE X-MEN.

LADY, I'M SO HAPPY-- AN' YOU'RE SO GORGEOUS--

-- I COULD KISS YOU!



MAYBE NEXT TIME, AND UNDER MORE PLEASANT CIRCUMSTANCES.

TAKE CARE.

BE SEEIN' YA, ANGEL!

A NICE MAN. A NICE GESTURE.

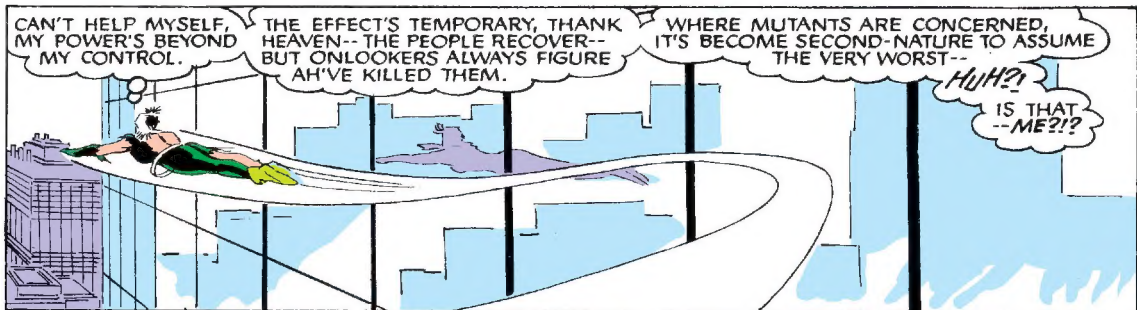
AH'D HAVE LIKED THAT KISS...

...ANY KISS.



BUT AH DON'T DARE.

THE INSTANT ANYONE'S FLESH TOUCHES MINE, AH ABSORB THEIR PSYCHE. AND THAT PERSON DROPS, UNCONSCIOUS.



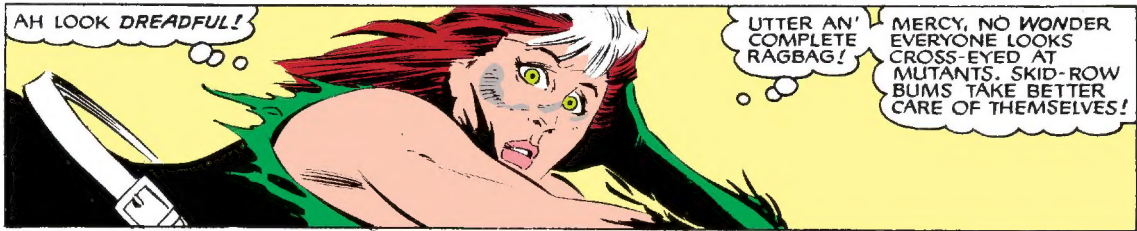
CAN'T HELP MYSELF, MY POWER'S BEYOND MY CONTROL.

THE EFFECT'S TEMPORARY, THANK HEAVEN-- THE PEOPLE RECOVER-- BUT ONLOOKERS ALWAYS FIGURE AH'VE KILLED THEM.

WHERE MUTANTS ARE CONCERNED, IT'S BECOME SECOND-NATURE TO ASSUME THE VERY WORST--

HUH?!

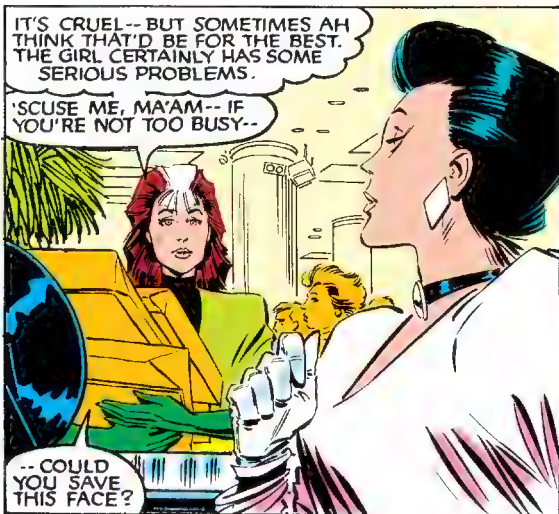
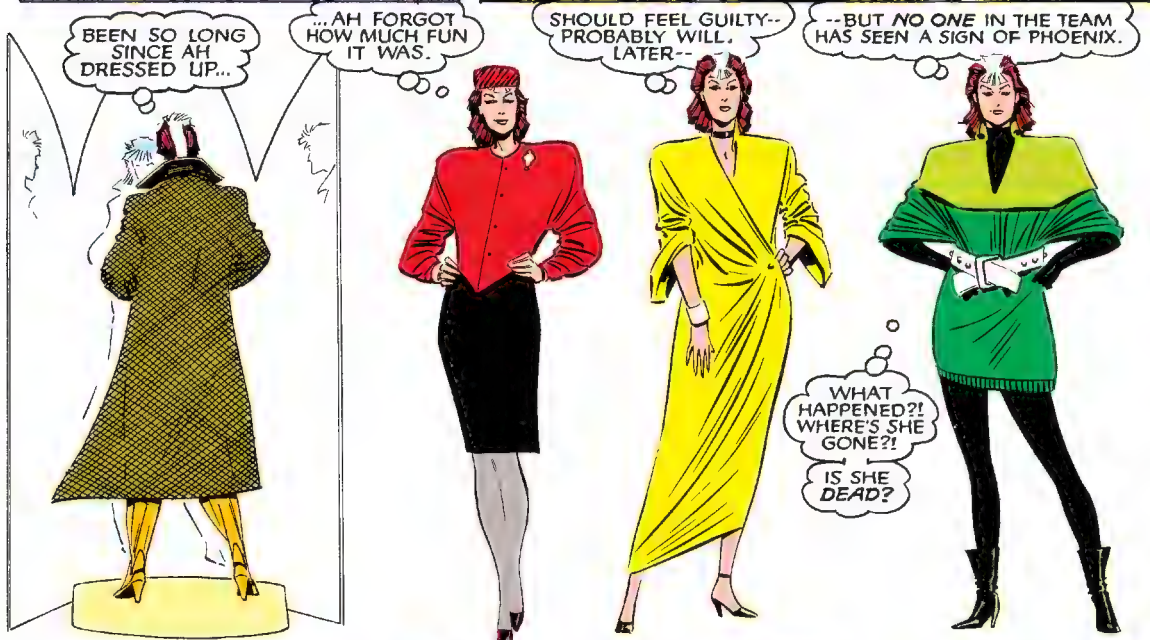
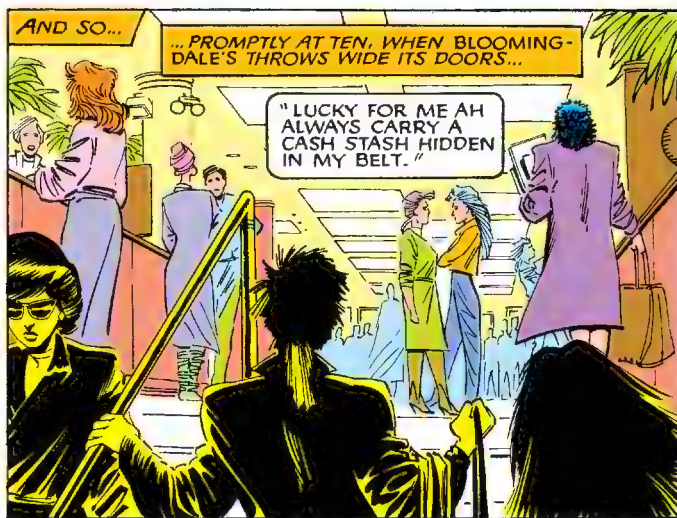
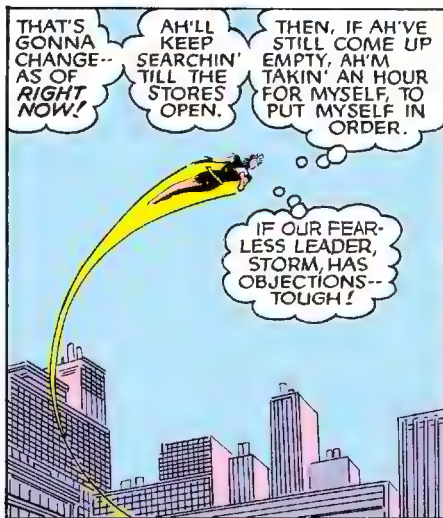
IS THAT --ME??!

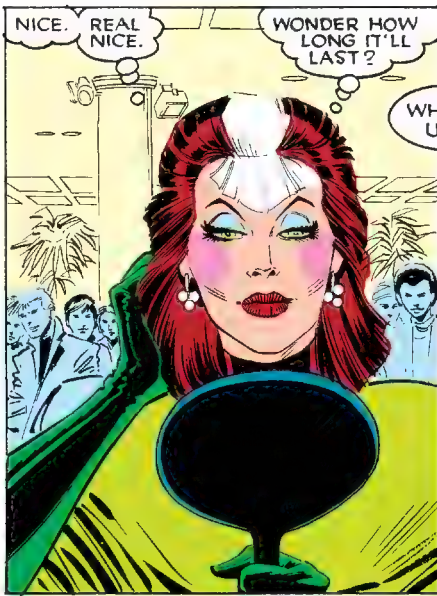


AH LOOK DREADFUL!

UTTER AN' COMPLETE RAGBAG!

MERCY, NO WONDER EVERYONE LOOKS CROSS-EYED AT MUTANTS. SKID-ROW BUMS TAKE BETTER CARE OF THEMSELVES!





NICE.
REAL NICE.

WONDER HOW
LONG IT'LL
LAST?

WHAT'S
UP?



DIN' YOU
SEE, MAN,
SHE SAVE
A GUY!

SO?

SHE
FLEW,
MAN!

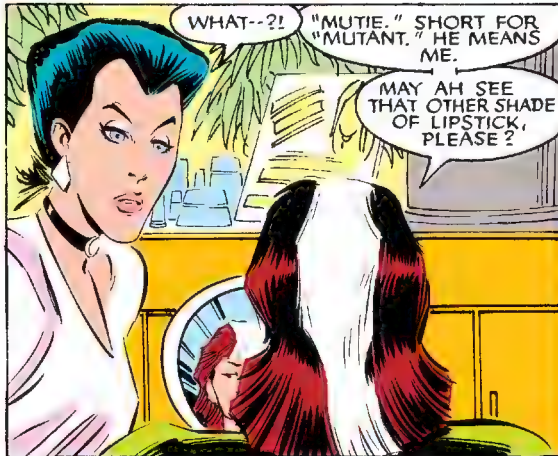
... SHE
SAID SHE'S
AN X-MAN.

I HEARD'A
THEM--
SHE'S A...



MUTIE--

--YOU DON'T
BELONG IN A
DECENT STORE,
AMONG DECENT--
HUMAN--
PEOPLE!



WHAT--?!

"MUTIE," SHORT FOR
"MUTANT," HE MEANS
ME.

MAY AH SEE
THAT OTHER SHADE
OF LIPSTICK,
PLEASE?



YOU CAN'T
IGNORE ME,
MUTIE!

WANNA
BET?

I'M CALLING
X-FACTOR!

BE MY
GUEST.

WHO
ARE
THEY?



YOU'LL FIND
OUT-- THE
HARD WAY--
WHEN THEY
TAKE CARE
OF YOU AND
YOUR ROTTEN
KIND FOR
GOOD!

YO!

ACE!



YOU TALK
NICE TO
THE LADY,
OR YOU
ANSWER
TO ME.

I BEG YOUR
PARDON--!

NO--YOU BEG **HERS**. IF NOT
FOR HER, ME AN' MY PARTNER'D
BE SPLATTERED ALL OVER
LEXINGTON AVENUE!



DON'T MATTER, SHE'S A MUTANT--
ANYMORE'N IT DOES I'M
CALABRESE OR JOEY'S BLACK!
SHE SAVED OUR LIVES. THAT'S
WHAT COUNTS.

YOU IGNORANT,
LITTLE--!

WANNA MAKE
SOMETHIN'
OF IT?!

GENTLEMEN! DON'T YOU DARE FIGHT IN HERE--

--THIS IS BLOOMINGDALE'S!!!

AIN'T MY FAULT, MISS--

--HE STARTED IT, BY DUMPIN' ON MY ANGEL--

--HEY!?!--

SHE'S GONE!

GOOD RIDDANCE.

YET ANOTHER MOMENT FOR DISCRETION TO PROVE THE BETTER PART OF VALOR.

DARN IT!

AH'M RUNNIN' LATE--

-- BETTER BOOGIE-- WHUA?!!

THIS AD-- FOR X-FACTOR!

NO WONDER PEOPLE ARE SO PARANOID-- AN' HOSTILE!

JUST WHAT WE NEED.

BETTER WARN STORM--

--FOR ALL THE GOOD IT'LL DO.

MUTANT INVESTIGATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS! NO NEED TO BE FEARFUL ANY LONGER! OUR SK TEAM OF EXPERTS WILL AID YOU FINDING THE ANSWERS TO ONE OF OUR TIME! CALL OUR PROBLEMS ON NUMBER! 1-800-555-9377. OPER

XFACTOR

WE TAKE CARE OF THE OLD CARE

AT THAT MOMENT, FORTY-ODD MILES UPSTATE, AT PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS, HOME OF THE UNCANNY X-MEN...

ILLYANA NIKOLAEVNA-- WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE!

CAN'T A GIRL VISIT HER BIG BROTHER?

HEY, COLOSSUS, ISN'T THAT YOUR OLD COSTUME?

DA. MY ORIGINAL X-MAN UNIFORM. ALL MY NEW ONES ARE RUINED.

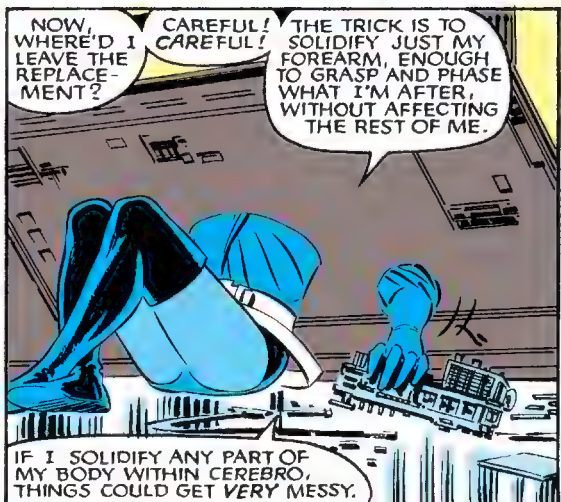
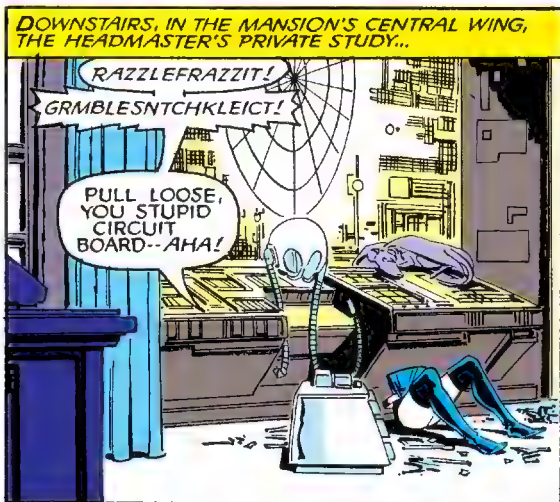
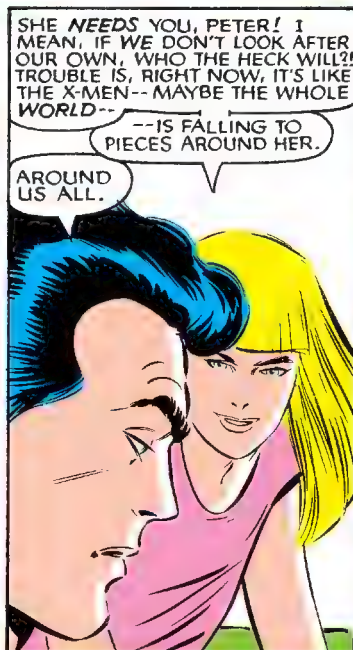
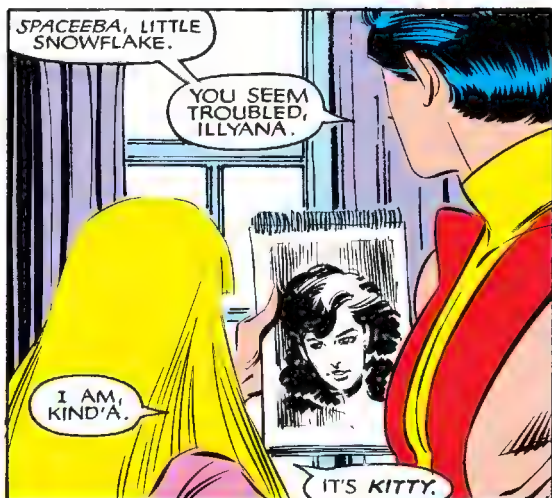
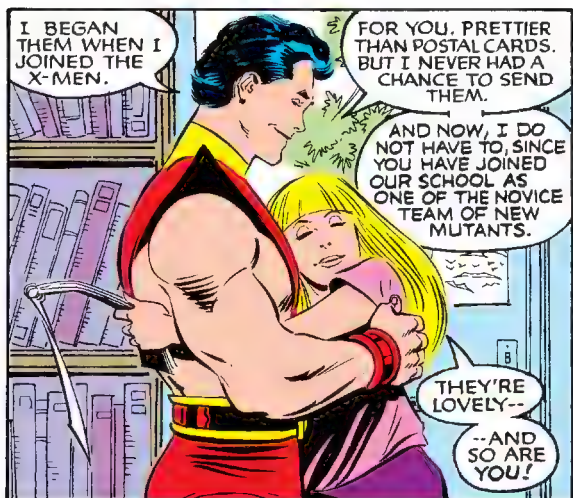
REALLY BRIGHT COLORS, PETER.

I WAS "NEW WAVE" BEFORE MY TIME.

PUH- LEEZ!

ARE THESE SKETCHES YOURS?

YES, AGAIN.



VOILÀ!

NOW TO SEE IF MY HARDWARE MODIFICATION...

...WORKS? TRÉS RAD!

YO, LOCKHEED--AM I BRILLIANT, DRAGON, OR WHAT?!

YAWWWWWN!

CUTE. VERY CUTE.

SOON AS I PHASE FREE, I'LL REACTIVATE THE ENTIRE SYSTEM.

IF I'D PHASED THROUGH CEREBRO WHILE IT WAS LIVE, MY POWER WOULD HAVE TOTALLY SHORT-CIRCUITED IT.

PUTTING IT OUT OF BUSINESS WHEN IT'S NEEDED MOST.

THE NEW CIRCUITRY BOARD ALTERS CEREBRO'S OPERATIONAL PARAMETERS SO THAT ANY OF THE X-MEN CAN USE IT TO SCAN FOR MUTANTS, WHERE BEFORE ONLY PSI-SENSITIVES COULD.

SHOULD HAVE DONE THIS AGES AGO. NOW, AT LAST, I'LL BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING TO HELP FIND RAY AND KURT.

BUT THEN WHAT?! SUPPOSE I FIND THEM, WILL THAT DO ANY GOOD?! MAYBE RACHEL'S BETTER OFF WHEREVER SHE IS? NIGHTCRAWLER, TOO?

I MEAN, THE X-MEN STRUGGLE AS HARD AS WE CAN-- TO HELP PEOPLE, TO PROTECT THE WORLD--AND NO ONE CARES.

IS THIS WHAT IT'S GOING TO BE LIKE...

... FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE?!

QUITE POSSIBLY.

BE NICE IF THINGS OCCASIONALLY GOT BETTER.

AND IF NOT, WHAT? YOU WISH TO QUIT?!

WHAT I WISH, COMRADE PIOTR NIKOLIEVITCH RASPUTIN--WHAT I REALLY WANT--IS A SUPER HOT FUDGE QUAD-SCOOP SUNDAE BANANA-RAMA SPLIT WITH ALL THE TRIM-MINGS.

YUM!

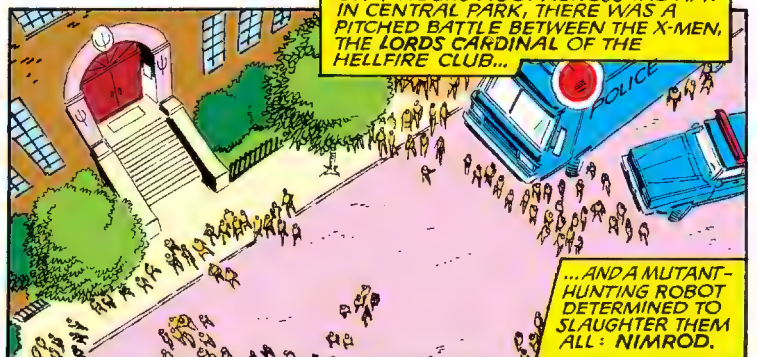
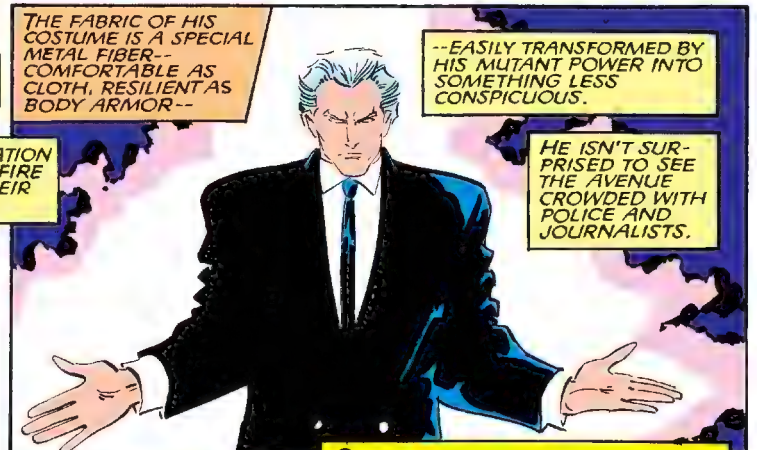
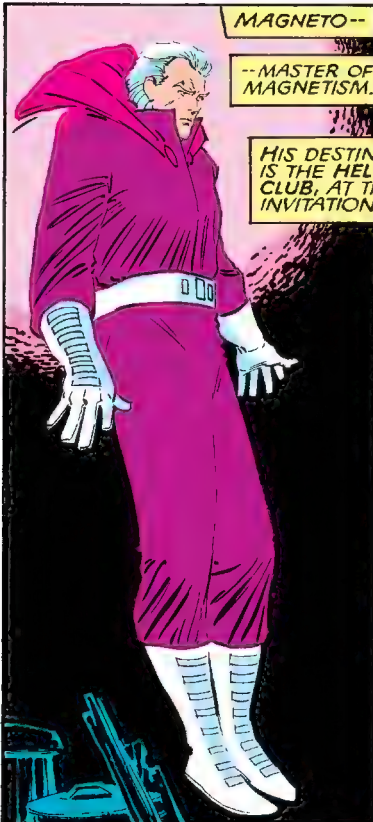
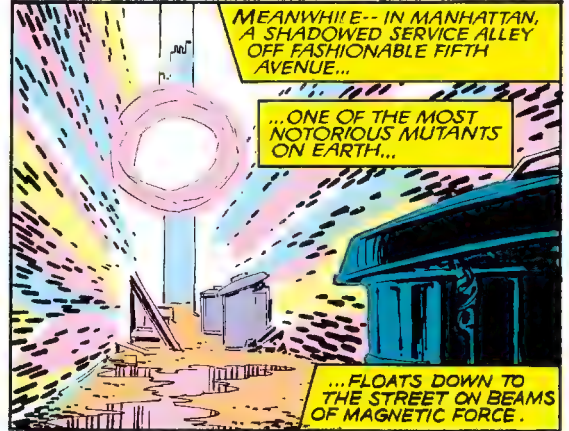
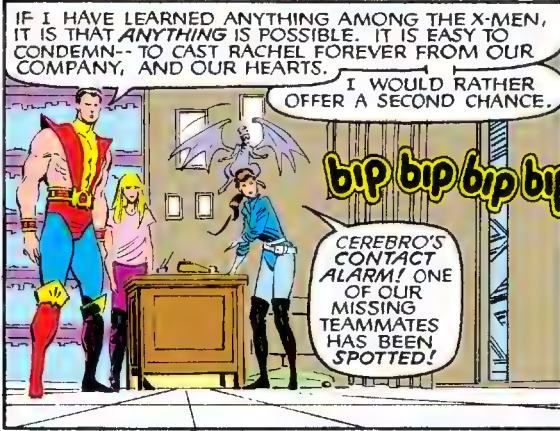
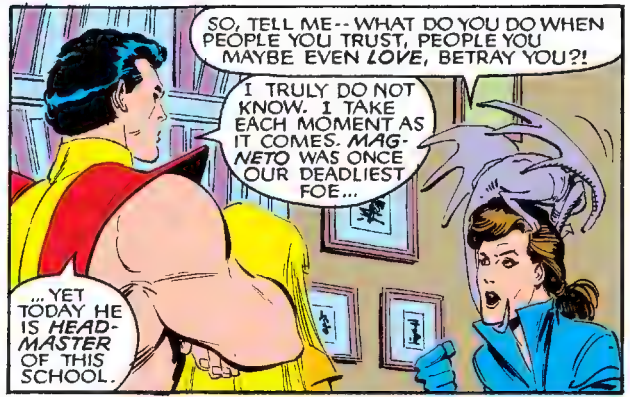
GROSS! THAT'S DISGUSTING!

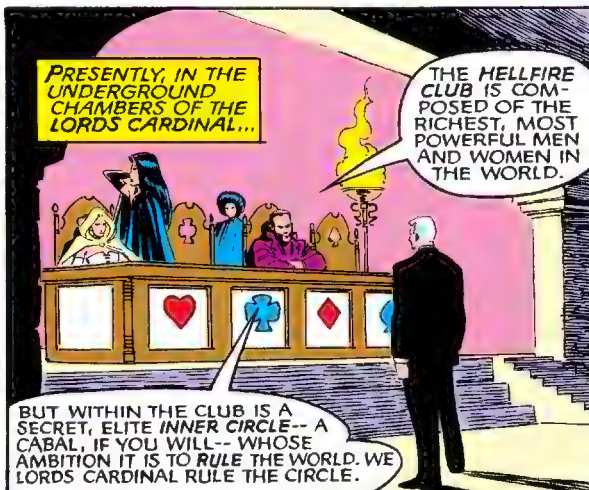
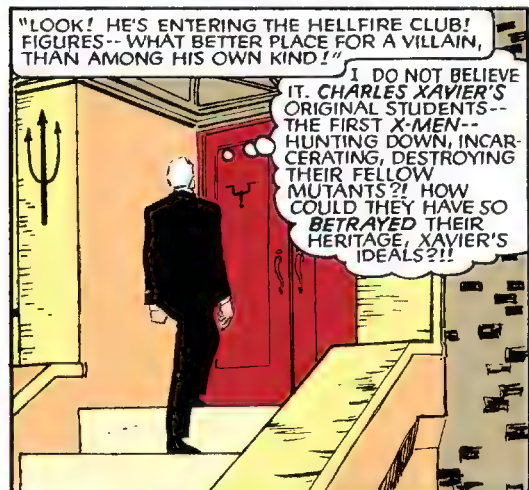
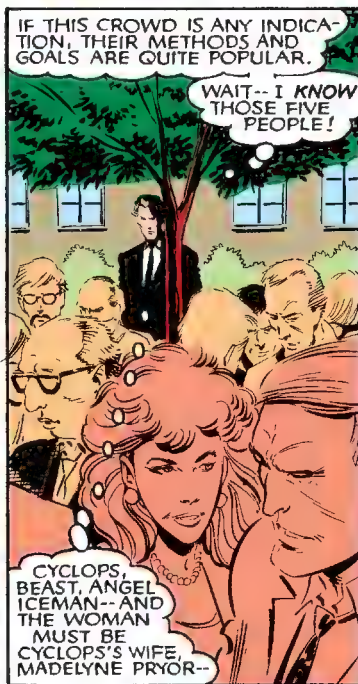
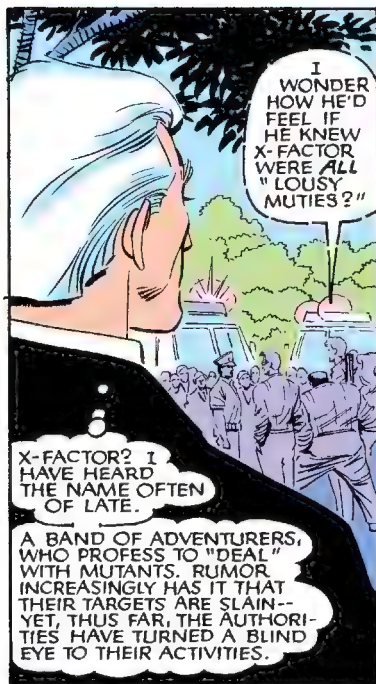
AIN'T IT, THOUGH. BUT TASTY!

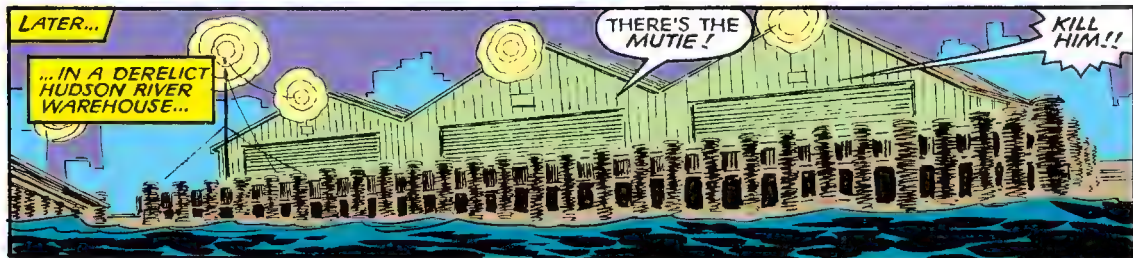
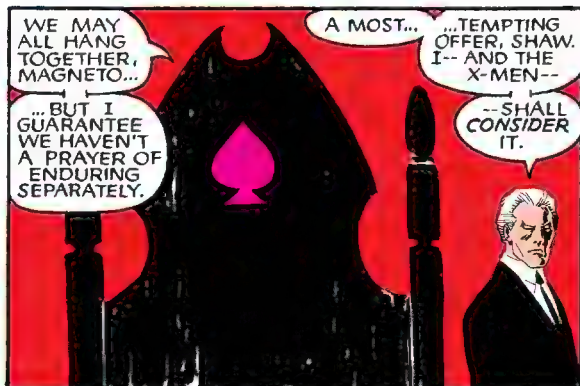
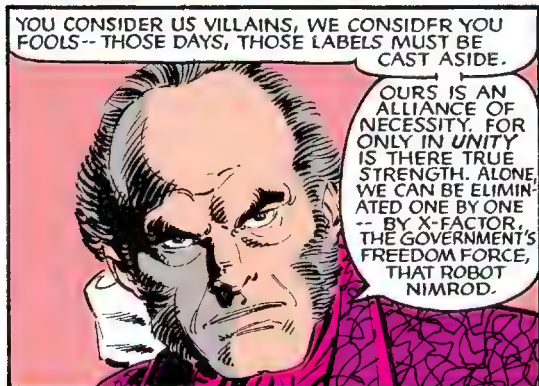
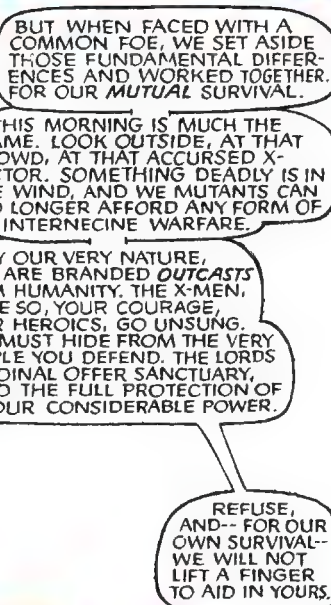
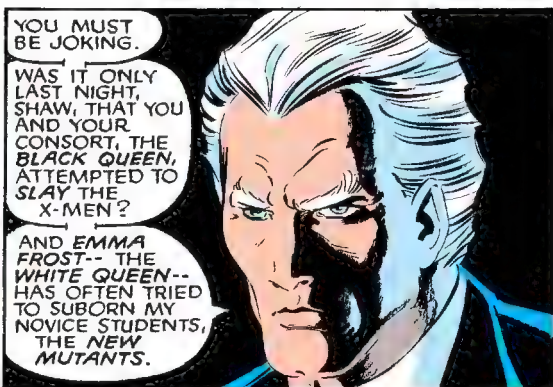
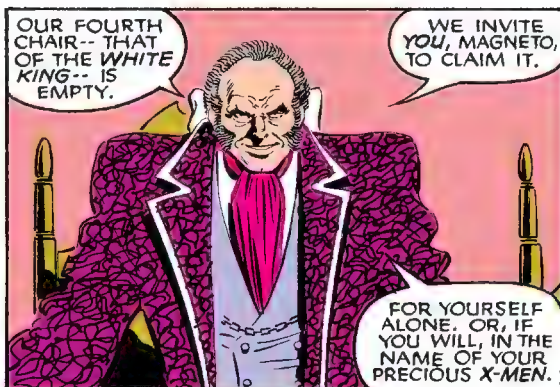
DO NOT CHANGE THE SUBJECT, KITTY.

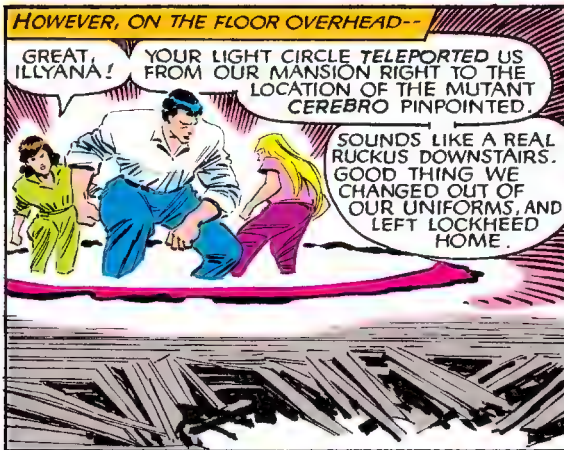
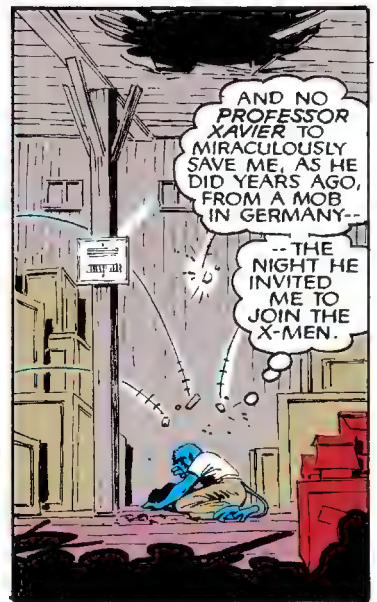


*LAST ISH-- A.











AND IS THAT CAUSE TO HUNT HIM LIKE SOME ANIMAL, TO BEAT HIM TO DEATH?!

A PAIR OF RADIOACTIVE MUTIES ATTACKED THE X-FACTOR BUILDING NOT FAR FROM HERE.

THEY TORE UP THE STREET, THEY COULD HAVE CONTAMINATED THE WHOLE CITY-- MAYBE KILLED MILLIONS-- IF X-FACTOR HADN'T DRIVEN THEM OFF!

*GLOWWORM AND THE BULK, IN X-F #7-- ANN



IS HE ONE OF THEM?

WHO CARES?!

IF HE HAS BROKEN THE LAW, THEN LET THE PROPER AUTHORITIES...



HUMAN LAW IS FOR HUMAN BEINGS!

NOW BACK OFF, FELLA, OR YOU'LL GET THE SAME!

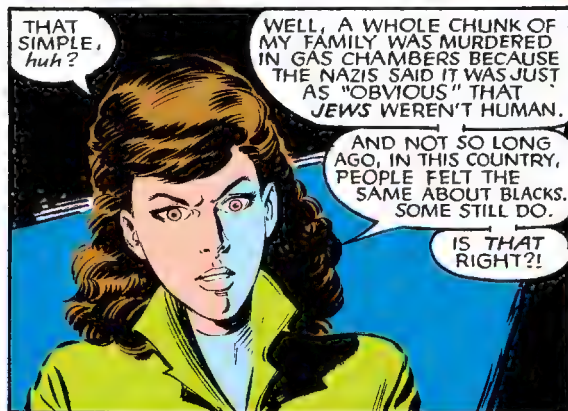
PETER MUST BE CRAZY FOR PULLING A STUNT LIKE THIS.



AND I MUST BE CRAZIER FOR GOING ALONG.

HEY, MISTER-- WHO DEFINES WHAT'S HUMAN?

IT'S OBVIOUS, GIRL. JUST OPEN YOUR EYES.

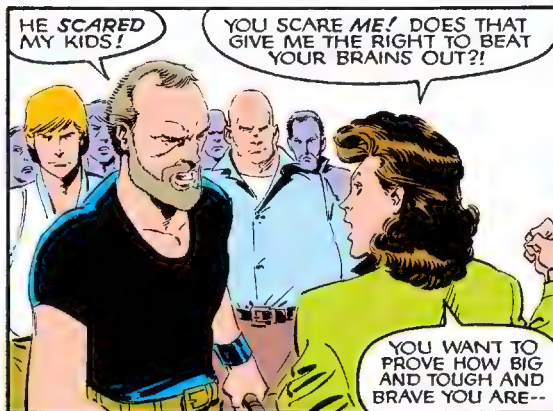


THAT SIMPLE, huh?

WELL, A WHOLE CHUNK OF MY FAMILY WAS MURDERED IN GAS CHAMBERS BECAUSE THE NAZIS SAID IT WAS JUST AS "OBVIOUS" THAT JEWS WEREN'T HUMAN.

AND NOT SO LONG AGO, IN THIS COUNTRY, PEOPLE FELT THE SAME ABOUT BLACKS. SOME STILL DO.

IS THAT RIGHT?!



HE SCARED MY KIDS!

YOU SCARE ME! DOES THAT GIVE ME THE RIGHT TO BEAT YOUR BRAINS OUT?!

YOU WANT TO PROVE HOW BIG AND TOUGH AND BRAVE YOU ARE--



--BEAT UP ON ME!

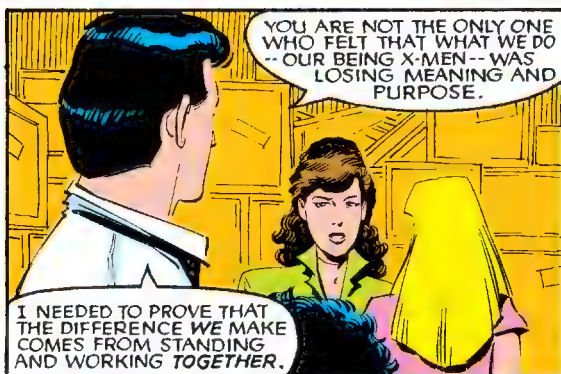
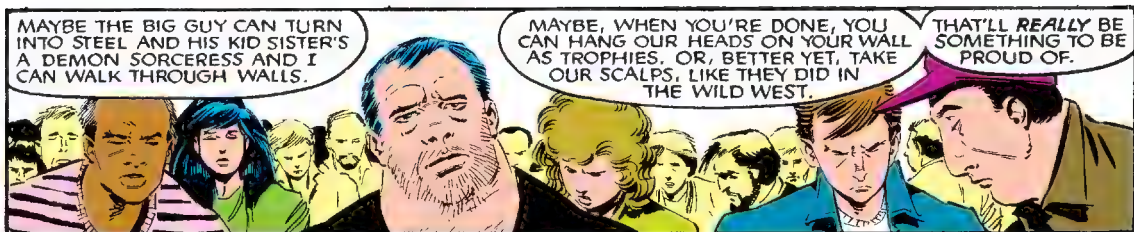
C'MON, WHAT'RE YOU WAITING FOR?!

YOU'RE BIGGER'N ME, AN' I'M JUST A GIRL!



HEY-- MAYBE I'M A MUTIE, TOO?! EVER THINK OF THAT?!

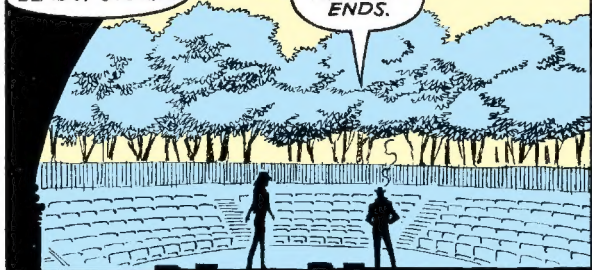
MAYBE WE ALL ARE?!



THE DELACORTE THEATRE-- OUTDOOR HOME OF THE NEW YORK SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL'S SUMMER SEASON IN CENTRAL PARK...

THIS IS WHERE RACHEL'S TRAIL LEADS, STORM.

THIS IS WHERE IT ENDS.

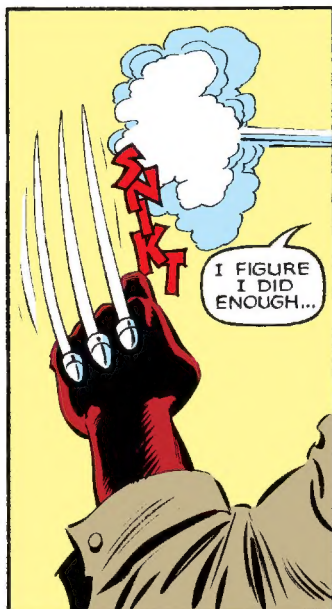


YOU SAY SHE IS LOST, WOLVERINE?!

SHE'S GONE, BOSS. WHERE THE X-MEN CAN'T FOLLOW.



IS THERE NOTHING WE CAN DO?



I FIGURE I DID ENOUGH...



... WHEN I NEARLY KILLED HER.



SHE WAS TRYING TO MURDER THE BLACK QUEEN. SHOULD I HAVE LET HER?

IT SHOULD NEVER HAVE COME TO THAT.

THE X-MEN ARE A TEAM, LOGAN.

I DO NOT OBJECT TO YOUR ATTEMPTING TO STOP RACHEL-- BUT YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE DONE SO ALONE. HAD I-- HAD ALL THE X-MEN-- BEEN THERE, SHE MIGHT STILL BE WITH US, INSTEAD OF VANISHED GODDESS KNOWS WHERE.

AND IF WE ARE A TEAM, MY FRIEND, AND I AM ITS LEADER, I MUST HAVE YOUR TRUST. AND, WHEN REQUIRED, YOUR OBEDIENCE.



ALL MY LIFE, DARLIN', I'VE BEEN A LONER.

THEN WALK AWAY, BEFORE MORE HARM IS DONE.

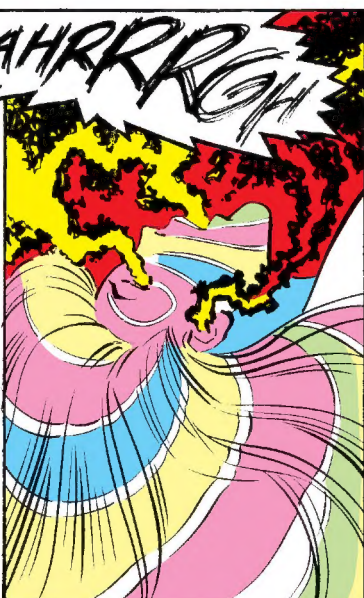
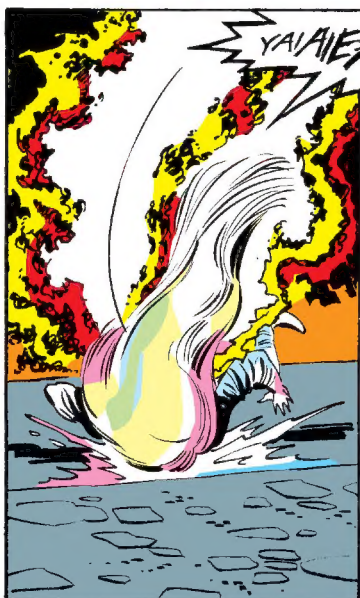
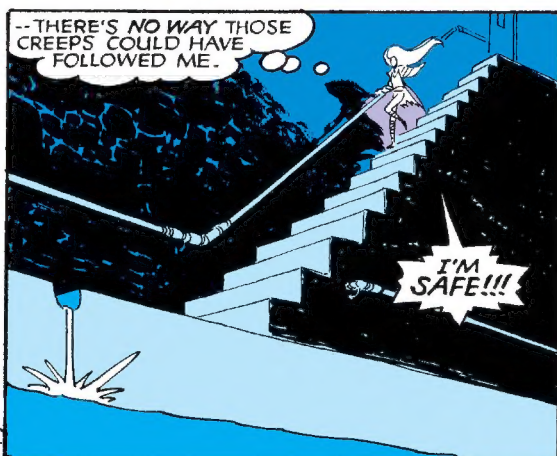
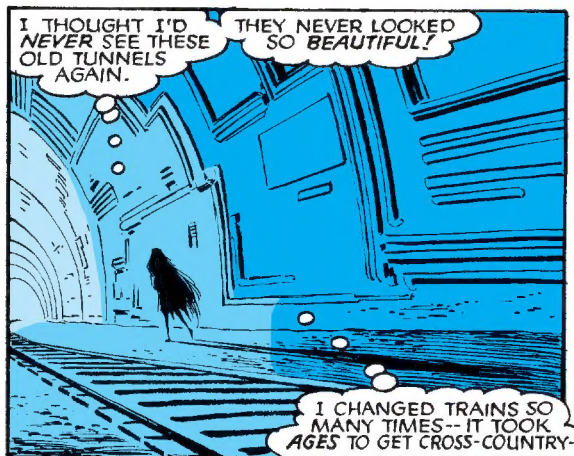
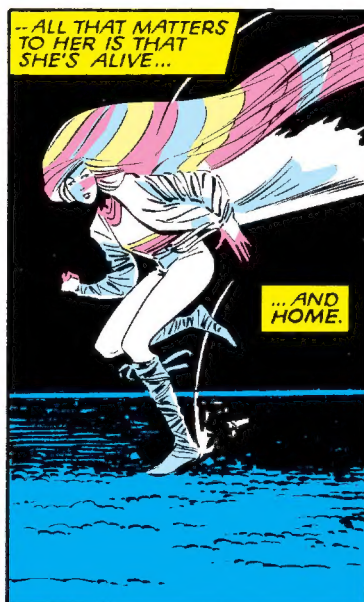
WE CANNOT AFFORD A "NEXT TIME," THE STAKES HAVE GROWN TOO HIGH. WE DEPEND ON YOU, WOLVERINE.

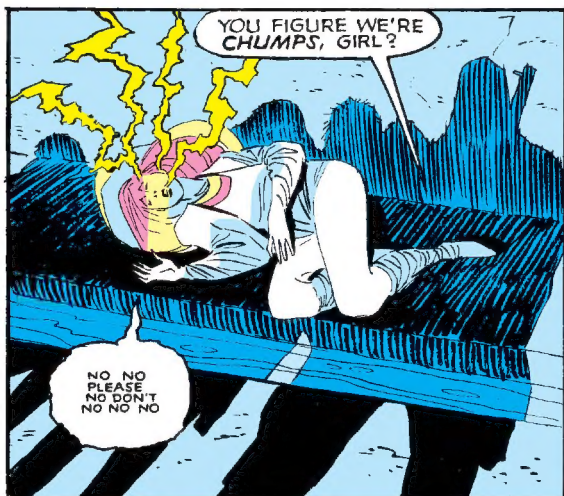


YOU MUST BE THERE.

I WILL BE.

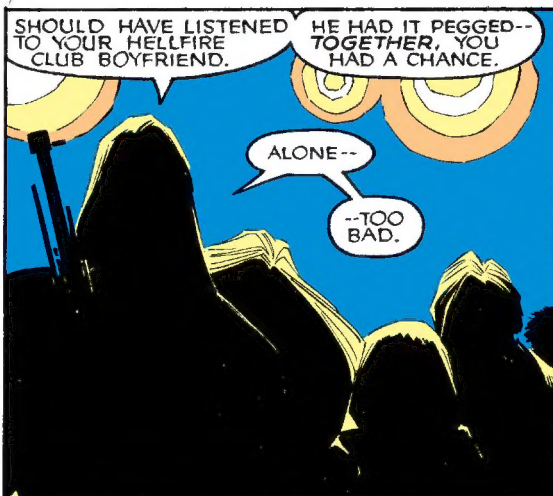
TO THE END.





YOU FIGURE WE'RE CHUMPS, GIRL?

NO NO PLEASE NO DON'T NO NO NO

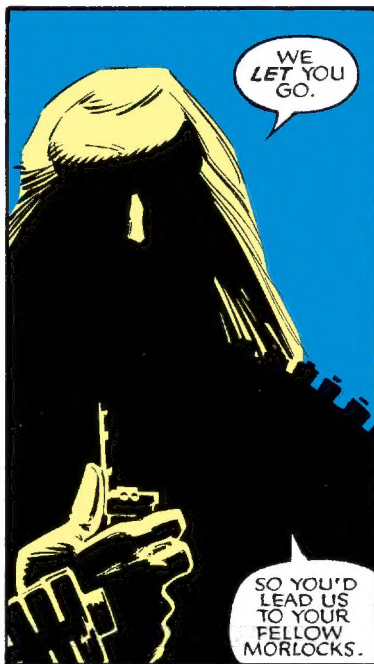


SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO YOUR HELLFIRE CLUB BOYFRIEND.

HE HAD IT PEGGED-- TOGETHER, YOU HAD A CHANCE.

ALONE--

--TOO BAD.



WE LET YOU GO.

SO YOU'D LEAD US TO YOUR FELLOW MORLOCKS.



NO HARD FEELINGS. NOTHING PERSONAL.

IT'S OUR JOB.

WE'RE PROS.

THE BEST.

MARAUDERS!



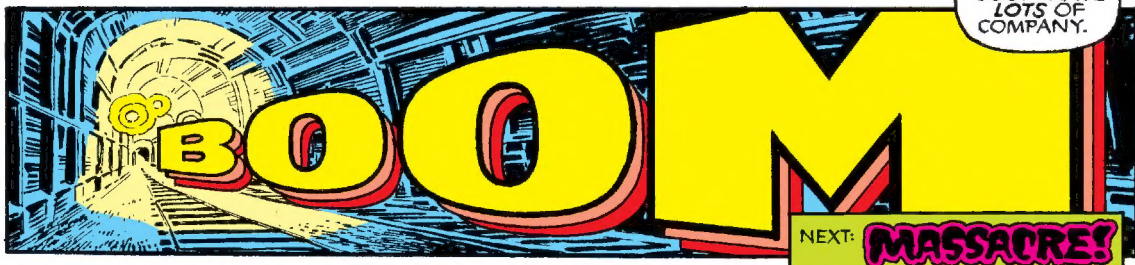
KLIK-KLAK



DON'T FEEL SAD, YOUNGSTER--

-- 'CAUSE WHERE YOU'RE GOING...

... YOU'LL SOON HAVE LOTS OF COMPANY.



NEXT:

MASSACRE!



MINUTEMEN

Bluntman